



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 183 372
A1

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 85307528.1

(51) Int. Cl.⁴: A 61 M 29/00
A 61 F 2/04

(22) Date of filing: 18.10.85

(30) Priority: 19.10.84 US 663013

(43) Date of publication of application:
04.06.86 Bulletin 86/23

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI NL SE

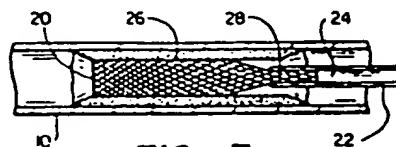
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(54) Prosthetic stent.

(57) A prosthetic stent (20) for internal support of a bodily duct such as a blood vessel (10) or other passage which may be collapsed for insertion into a duct and then expanded to provide active internal support for the duct. The stent (20) comprises a flexible generally tubular body of braided filaments having a first configuration (26) that is radially expanded and axially shortened and having a second configuration (28) which is radially contracted and axially lengthened and having means for biasing the tubular body from said second configuration (28) towards said first configuration (26). In one embodiment, the means for biasing the tubular body comprises the braided filaments themselves, the filaments having been annealed to a rest geometry in the first configuration (26). In another embodiment, means for biasing comprises a plurality of warp filaments that are longitudinally woven into the braided filaments to provide a frictional interface with respect to the various filaments. In yet other embodiments, elastic or heat-recoverable, shrinkable warp filaments are utilized.



FIG_3

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